

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Title:

The title, on Page 1, has been amended as follows:

IONOMERIC, PUNCTURE RESISTANT, THERMOPLASTIC BAG
[PATCH BAG, FILM BLEND AND PROCESS]

In The Specification:

The abstract of the disclosure, beginning on Page 31, has been amended as follows:

Abstract Of The Disclosure

A [novel blend, film, and patch] bag combination of: (a) [a bag having inside and outside surfaces comprising] a flexible, thermoplastic, biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film bag having at least one blend layer [having at least three copolymers] comprising: 45 to 85 weight [percent] % of a first polymer ([having a melting point] of 55 to 98°C m.p.) comprising a copolymer of ethylene and hexene-1 or octene-1; 5 to 35 weight % of a second [polymer] ethylene α -olefin copolymer; ([having a melting point of from] 115 to 128°C m.p.) [comprising a copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin]; and 10 to 50 weight [percent] % of a third polymer ([having a melting point of from] 60 to 110°C m.p.) comprising an unmodified or anhydride-modified copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or an alkyl acrylate; where the first and second polymers [above have a] combined [weight percentage] are \geq 50 weight % based upon [their total weight] the three polymer blend; and the bag film has a total energy absorption \geq 0.70 Joule and a shrinkage value at 90°C \geq 50% [in at least one of the machine and transverse directions] (M.D. or T.D.); and (b) a [patch film attached to at least one surface of] the bag and covering [at least]

≥ 25% of the bag's surface [where this] ~~the~~ [patch] film [comprises a flexible, thermoplastic film comprising a blend of ≥ 2 polymers] comprising:

5 to 20 weight % of (i) an ionomer; ~~and~~ [polymer e.g., an ethylene-methacrylate acid copolymer whose acid groups have been neutralized partly or completely to form a salt, preferably a zinc or sodium salt;]

5 to 95 weight percent of (ii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one C₆ to C₈ α-olefin, ([melting point of from] 55 to 95°C m.p. and $\overline{M}_w/\overline{M}_n$ of 1.5 to 3.5);

0 to 90 weight [percent] % ~~each~~ of (iii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one C₄ to C₈ α-olefin, ([melting point of] 100 to 125°C M.P.); and

0 to 90 weight percent of] (iv) a copolymer of propylene and ethylene or butene-1 ([melting point of] 105 to 145°C m.p.), ~~and~~

[0 to 90 weight percent of] (v) a copolymer of ethylene and hexene-1, octene-1 and/or decene-1, ([melting point of] 125 to 135°C m.p.); and polymers (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) have a combined weight % of ≥ 80 weight % based upon the total weight of polymers (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v); and the [patch] film ~~and bag laminate~~ has a total energy absorption of ≥ 1.2 Joule[, and process for making same].

In The Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A patch bag comprising:

(a) a bag having an inside surface and an outside surface, said bag comprising a flexible, thermoplastic, biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film having at least one layer comprising a blend of at least three copolymers comprising:

45 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 98°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one comonomer selected from the group of hexene-1 and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and

10 to 50 weight percent of a third polymer having a melting point of from 60 to 110°C comprising at least one unmodified or anhydride-modified copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or an alkyl acrylate; wherein said first and second polymers have a combined weight percentage of at least 50 weight percent, said weight percentage being based upon the total weight of said first, second and third polymers; and wherein said film has a total energy absorption of at least 0.70 Joule and a shrinkage value at 90°C of at least 50% in at least one of the machine and transverse directions; and

(b) a patch film attached to at least one surface of said bag and covering at least 25% of said surface, said patch film comprising a flexible, thermoplastic film having at least one layer comprising a blend of at least two polymers comprising:

5 to 20 weight percent of (i) an ionomer polymer;

5 to 95 weight percent of (ii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one C₆ to C₈ α -olefin, wherein said copolymer (ii) has a melting point of from 55 to 95°C, and a $\overline{M}_w/\overline{M}_n$ of from 1.5 to 3.5;

0 to 90 weight percent of (iii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one C₄ to C₈ α -olefin, wherein said copolymer (iii) has a melting point of from 100 to 125°C; and

0 to 90 weight percent of (iv) a copolymer of propylene and at least one monomer selected from the group of ethylene and butene-1, wherein said copolymer (iv) has a melting point of from 105 to 145°C;

0 to 90 weight percent of (v) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one monomer selected from the group of hexene-1, octene-1 and decene-1, wherein said copolymer (v) has a melting point of from 125 to 135°C; and wherein said polymers (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) have a combined weight percentage of at least 80 weight percent; said weight percentages of polymers (i), (ii), (iii),

(iv), and (v) being based upon the total weight of said polymers (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v); and wherein said patch [film] bag has a total energy absorption of at least 1.2 Joule through a patch covered bag area.

Claim 12 has been canceled.

Claim 13 has been canceled.

Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claim 15 has been canceled.

Claim 16 has been canceled.

Claim 17 has been canceled.